



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT IS REQUIRED IN BUILDING A NURSES' HOME *

BY AGNES S. WARD, R.N.

Superintendent Metropolitan Training School, Blackwell's Island, New York

WHEN a new nurses' home is under consideration, it is most advisable for the superintendent and others interested to note all requirements. Many of these requirements may be suggested by visiting other modern homes; not infrequently improvements may be made on what is found in these homes.

The first thing to be considered is the number of people to be accommodated, then the amount of money which is available. Where a site must be purchased, the best location possible is advisable, as this is one of many things which will affect the standard of nursing.

The future needs and growth of the institution with which the school is connected must always be considered. Where it is expected that the hospital will be enlarged, a home to which wings can be added seems much better than one where additional stories are planned. A wing can be added with very little disturbance to the home; where a story is added there is not only the discomfort of having the workmen continually passing through the home, but also the noise, which not only prevents the night nurses from sleeping, but in case of serious illness might even be a menace to the life of a patient. If the wings are to be added in the near future it is well to consider having the foundations made when the initial work is being done. This will considerably reduce the expense of the wings.

Where available funds will not permit of desired comforts, the work done should give the essential needs, the comforts coming later. Thus, if it is not possible to have single sleeping-rooms and the desired reception, lounging rooms, etc., the sleeping-rooms should have first consideration.

When a meeting of those interested is called, the architect should be present, and all details gone over and thoroughly understood before he is asked to draw plans or make estimates. When these plans are submitted for consideration they must be gone over with the greatest care, even to the minutest detail, as this is the time to call attention to any changes which may be desired.

* Illustrations of the Metropolitan Training School and of the reception room may be found in the JOURNAL for July, 1909.

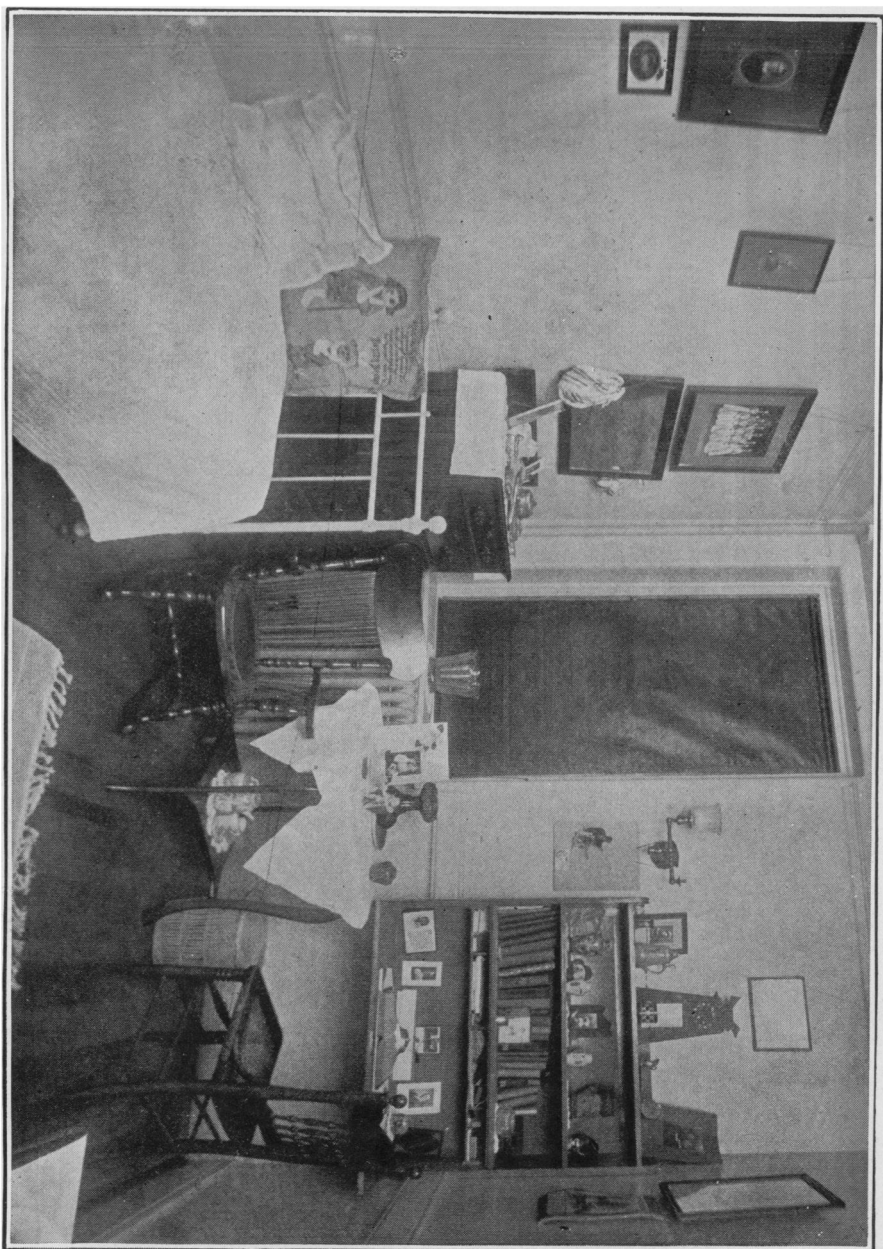
The superintendent, or some one especially interested, should carefully watch details as the building progresses. It may be desirable to have changes made, and these may sometimes be brought about before the work is done; however, if there be a contract to have the building done at a certain time, and as any slight change made enables the contractor to break the contract, it may seem best to let the work be finished and have the changes made afterward.

The following suggestions may be helpful. It is pretty generally accepted that nurses who work hard nine or ten hours a day, and spend most of their evenings and hours off duty in study, should have a single room where they will be uninterrupted in their study or rest time. It is well to have the rooms large enough for comfort but too small to ever permit of putting in a second bed; if this precaution is not taken, as the hospital grows the second bed will probably be put in, and the nurses be crowded and uncomfortable perhaps for years. A room $9 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ ft. will be large enough for comfort and will not permit of a second bed. From the above room space a clothes closet $2\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ ft. may be taken; which, fitted with two or three shelves and a good supply of hooks, ought to insure order in the nurse's wardrobe.

A combination wall bookcase and writing desk is a great convenience, as it not only gives the nurse a place to put her books, but it also does away with the spilling of ink on table covers or rugs which occurs more or less frequently where there is no place provided for writing. This desk should be placed where it will have good light and ought to be included in the original plan of the rooms, as plugs should be put in the walls to give support. The window should be placed nearly opposite the door with a transom over the door, so that good ventilation can be secured during the entire twenty-four hours; ventilation should also be planned for the closet. An electric light in the closet, which will light when the door is opened and be extinguished when the door is closed, is most convenient. A window pole should be provided for each room, which can be hung in the closet near the door. The picture moulding, when not put close to the ceiling, should be on a line either with the top of the door or window.

A portion of a floor or wing might be reserved for night nurses. This would mean extra rooms, but the night nurses are so frequently disturbed by noise during the day and become worn out for lack of sleep that the separation would be a decided benefit to all.

In many homes double rooms or dormitories are provided for probationers. It is doubtful whether this is desirable, as the probationer leaves her home, where she probably has had her own room, and the



BEDROOM.

dormitory or uncongenial room-mate may influence her to give up her training.

Each door should be fitted with a key to which is attached a brass tag with number. These keys are always left in the office. In numbering rooms a good plan is to number them by the hundred, one hundred on each floor. A certain number of master keys are supplied for each floor, and four or five grand master keys which are given only to the superintendent, supervising nurse, or matron. The master keys should not fit the doors to linen or supply rooms. These should have distinct keys of their own.

Suites, including sitting-room, bedroom and bath, should be planned for the superintendent and assistant. If the institution is a large one and there are a number of assistants, some of the suites might include two or three bedrooms, with one bath and a sitting-room. These suites might be arranged one on each floor. This will be the most suitable arrangement for the necessary plumbing, and will also have a good disciplinary effect on the nurses.

A large reception room on the ground floor, where the nurses can congregate and entertain their friends, would be quite an adjunct to the home. This should be one of the principal rooms, and as the main entrance would probably lead into it, it would be the one to give the visitor the first impression of the home. Bearing this in mind, a room which would give a real home feeling and a feeling of comfort would be eminently suitable. If the dining-room is on the same floor, a cloak room and lavatory should be conveniently located, so that when the nurses come to meals or have an hour off duty, they do not have to go to their rooms unless they feel so inclined.

(To be continued)

Announcement of a national tuberculosis Sunday to be held on April 24th in 215,000 churches of the United States has been made by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. It is planned that tuberculosis sermons shall be preached in all the churches of the country. Literature will be distributed to members of the congregations, and in every way an effort will be made to teach that tuberculosis is a dangerous disease and that it can be prevented and cured.